GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2023
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
OPIUM CULTIVATORS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of the opium cultivators in the country particularly the tribal areas, State-wise;

(b) The production of opium during each of the last three years; and

(c) The measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal cultivation of opium?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) The number of opium poppy cultivators in the three States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh where poppy cultivation under licence is undertaken, and in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (There is no scheduled tribal area in Uttar Pradesh) during the last three years are as under :-

Crop year	No. of Licensed opium cultivators in three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (including those in tribal areas)				No. of cultivators in tribal areas	
	M.P.	Raj.	U.P.	Total	M.P.	Rajasthan
2002-03	48459	44364	9219	102042	71	4752
2003-04	48207	46695	10795	105697	90	4693
2004-05	42351	43532	1787	87670	49	4470

(b) The production of opium during last three years is as under:-

Crop year	Total production of Opium at 70 degree Consistence (in Metric Tonnes)
2002-03	684
2003-04	1087
2004-05	439 (Provisional)

(c) Instructions have been issued to various drug enforcement agencies and some State Governments to initiate steps for the destruction of illicit cultivation of opium and create awareness about the dangers of illicit cultivation. The total area of illicit opium crop destroyed in the country during the past three years is 539 acres during 2002, 1243 acres during 2003 and 417 acres during 2004.